

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-14 EUR-12 EA-12 NEA-10 IO-14
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INFO USMISSION USUN
ALL OECD CAPITALS
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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 04 PARIS 12838

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FOR OES - PASS AID AA/DS
E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: TGEN: TATT, OECD, UNGA
SUBJECT: OECD WORKSHOP ON SCIENTIFIC & TECHNOLOGICAL
COOPERATION WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, APRIL 10-13, 1978

REF: STATE 84771 (NOTAL)
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1. SUMMARY: OECD WORKSHOP BROUGHT TOGETHER OFFICIALS
AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS FOR FOUR DAYS OF WIDE-
RANGING DISCUSSION OF MAJOR POLICY ISSUES RELATED TO
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT. THE DISCUSSIONS
REFLECTED A STRONG INTEREST IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND
AGRICULTURE, AND IN THE OBJECTIVE OF STRENGTHENING LDC

S&T CAPABILITIES. MANY PARTICIPANTS ALSO EXPRESSED A READINESS TO DO MORE TO ASSIST THE INDUSTRIALIZATION PROCESS IN EMERGING LDCS. BREADTH OF SUBJECT MATTER AND SIZE OF MEETING (WITH ABOUT 100 PARTICIPANTS) INHIBITED SPONTANEOUS GIVE AND TAKE. NEVERTHELESS, THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE OPPORTUNITY FOR EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCE AND INSIGHT. MOST PARTICIPANTS BELIEVED FURTHER OECD ACTIVITY ON THE SUBJECT OF THE WORKSHOP WOULD BE USEFUL. THE FORM AND TIMING OF SUCH ACTIVITY REMAINED UNDEFINED IN SPECIFIC TERMS EXCEPT FOR AGREEMENT ON CONSULTATION IN OECD ON PREPARATIONS FOR UNCSTD. END SUMMARY.

2. THE WORKSHOP WAS ORGANIZED BY THREE OECD BODIES, THE CSTP, DAC, AND DEVELOPMENT CENTRE, THUS PROVIDING A FRAMEWORK FOR CONSIDERING THE ISSUES FROM VARYING PERSPECTIVES. THE PARTICIPANTS THEMSELVES BROUGHT A WIDE RANGE OF EXPERIENCE TO WORKSHOP.. NATIONAL DELEGATIONS WERE COMPOSED OF EXPERTS FROM DOMESTIC S&T AGENCIES, DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE AND FOREIGN MINISTRIES, AND DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH INSTITUTES. NON-GOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS WERE COMMISSIONED TO WRITE PAPERS FOR THE WORKSHOP AND TO MAKE AN INITIAL PRESENTATION AT EACH SESSION. THESE EXPERTS INCLUDED JAMES P. GRANT OF THE OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, PAUL-MARC HENRY OF THE SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND LOUIS BERLINGUET OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH CENTRE (CANADA). USDEL UNCLASSIFIED

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WAS LED BY DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY O.H. GANLEY (OES), AND INCLUDED C. FARRAR (S/P), C.MCGRAW (AID), F. KINNELY (OES), M. CIEZLA (NSF) AND USOECD OFFICERS. ASSISTANT SECRETARY MINK AND DEPUTY COORDINATOR FOR UNCSTD PREPARATIONS STROMAYER ATTENDED CLOSING SESSIONS.

3. THE WORKSHOP OPENED WITH A SERIES OF COUNTRY STATEMENTS. MAIN ISSUES COVERED WERE THE OBJECTIVES OF S&T COOPERATION AND THE ROLE OF S&T ACTIVITIES IN NATIONAL AID PROGRAMS. SEVERAL THEMES WERE CONSISTENTLY EMPHASIZED (1) DONOR GOVERNMENTS MUST RESPOND TO LDC-DETERMINED PRIORITIES, (2) EMPHASIS MUST BE PLACED ON STRENGTHENING INDIGENEOUS RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS, (3) TRAINING AND EDUCATION SHOULD BE A MAJOR FOCUS OF AID PROGRAMS, (4) A SHORTAGE EXISTS OF QUALIFIED DEVELOPMENT SPECIALISTS AND TECHNICAL PERSONNEL TO CARRY OUT EFFECTIVE AID PROGRAMS.

IN U.S. STATEMENT, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY GANLEY STRESSED THAT THE DEVELOPMENT AND APPLICATION OF TECHNOLOGY MUST BE A BASIC INGREDIENT OF THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS, AND THAT PROGRAMS PROMOTING THE TRANSFER AND APPLICATION

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INFO USMISSION USUN

ALL OECD CAPITALS

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OF TECHNOLOGY SERVE TO INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY, CREATE
JOBS, AND HELP EXPAND THE SUPPLY OF FOOD AND OTHER
RESOURCES TO SATISFY BASIC NEEDS. NOTING THAT THE U.S.
IS PLACING INCREASING EMPHASIS ON THE GOAL OF STRENGTHENING
THE TECHNOLOGY BASE IN RECIPIENT COUNTRIES, GANLEY
INDICATED THAT THE U.S. IS DEVELOPING A PROPOSAL FOR A
FOUNDATION FOR TECHNOLOGICAL COLLABORATION WHICH COULD
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PLAN, COORDINATE, AND IMPLEMENT S&T ACTIVITIES WITH BOTH PRIVATE AND PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS IN MIDDLE AND UPPER TIER LDCS AS WELL AS IN LLDCS.

4. MOST EXPERTS STRESSED THAT AID PROGRAMS OF THEIR COUNTRIES CENTERED ON OBJECTIVES RELATED TO BHN, THE POOREST, OR RURAL DEVELOPMENT. HOWEVER, SEVERAL COUNTRIES (DENMARK, NORWAY, SWITZERLAND) INDICATED AN INTEREST IN MORE DIVERSIFIED PROGRAMS INCLUDING RESEARCH INTO PROBLEMS OF ADAPTING WESTERN INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY FOR USE IN LDCS. SEVERAL EXPERTS EXPRESSED CONCERN FOR LDC REACTION TO DONOR COUNTRY EMPHASIS ON APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY. AT SAME TIME, APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY WAS SUPPORTED AS BEING USEFUL IN BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS BETWEEN ADVANCED AND BACKWARD SECTORS OF AN LDC ECONOMY. SEVERAL DELEGATES INSISTED, HOWEVER, THAT IT WAS UP TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES THEMSELVES TO DETERMINE PRIORITIES AND DEFINE THE CRITERIA FOR TECHNOLOGICAL CHOICE. THE ROLE OF THE DONOR WAS TO HELP BUILD THE CAPACITY FOR THE ASSESSMENT, AND TO ASSIST IN FINDING TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS WHEN NECESSARY.

5. IN HIS PRESENTATION, GRANT ASKED THE PARTICIPANTS TO REFLECT ON HOW EFFICIENCY CAN BE RESTORED TO THE GLOBAL SYSTEM, SO THAT THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES CAN AGAIN REACH THE GROWTH RATES OF THE 1950'S AND 1960'S AND TO PERMIT THE LDC'S TO PARTICIPATE MORE FULLY. HE ARGUED THAT THE OUTLOOK FOR INFLATION AND UNEMPLOYMENT IS POOR UNLESS THE PRESENT SYSTEM CHANGES. WHILE THE NORTH WILL HAVE TO FACE THE PROBLEM OF ABSORBING ADDITIONAL MANUFACTURES, GRANT POINTED OUT THAT THESE IMPORTS WILL HAVE A COOLING EFFECT ON INFLATION. POINTING TO THE FREQUENTLY-CITED JAPANESE MODEL, GRANT ALSO RAISED THE ISSUE OF WHETHER

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ALL LDCS SEEK TO FOLLOW THE JAPANESE PATTERN OF INTEGRATION INTO THE GLOBAL ECONOMY, OR WHETHER THEY SEEK SOMETHING ELSE. HENRY ALSO TOUCHED ON THIS PROBLEM, OBSERVING THAT AT ONE EXTREME CAMBODIA HAS REJECTED ALL THAT IS SCIENTIFIC AND RATIONAL AND HE SAID THAT THIS TENDENCY EXISTS ELSEWHERE IN THE THIRD WORLD. ACCORDING TO HENRY, WE ARE DEALING HERE WITH A DEFENSIVE RESPONSE FROM NON-WESTERN SOCIETIES TO WHAT IS PERCEIVED AS A WESTERN CONCEPT.

6. THE SECOND DAY DISCUSSION WAS PRIMARILY FOCUSED ON THE SUBJECT OF RESEARCH AND TRAINING IN AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT. THIS WAS DUE PRIMARILY TO THE VERY

STRONG AND ARTICULATE PRESENTATION OF MR. A.H. BUNTING,
PROFESSOR OF OVERSEAS AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, UNIVER-
SITY OF READING, WHO SERVED AS AN EXPERT FOR THE SESSION.

THE GENERAL POINTS MADE BY BUNTING INCLUDED:

-- THAT THERE IS EXTREME DIVERSITY IN DEVELOPING WORLD
ACCOMPANIED BY VERY RAPID CHANGE. "WE RIDE THE WHIRL-
WIND" HE SAID.

-- THAT SATISFACTION OF BASIC HUMAN NEEDS IS A
CONSEQUENCE OF PRODUCTIVE WORK.

-- THAT OECD GOVERNMENTS NEED TO CONSIDER CAREFULLY THE
ESSENTIAL MIX OF EXPERTISE AND RANGE OF RELATIONSHIPS
AMONG DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE INSTITUTIONS TO MEET
DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES.

-- THAT ONE CENTRAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE AGENCY IN
EACH DONOR COUNTRY DESIRABLE, AND IT NEEDS TO BE ADE-
QUATELY INFORMED BY HAVING BOTH SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE
AND LDC-RELATED EXPERIENCE.

-- THAT OECD COUNTRIES NEED TO FOCUS ON MORE RESPONSIVE
RESEARCH AND TRAINING PROGRAMS, BY INSURING THAT:

(1) LDC RESEARCH EXPERIENCE IS REPRESENTED

ON UNIVERSITY FACULTIES AND STAFF; (2) DEVELOPMENT
RELATED RESEARCH SHOULD PERMEATE ALL DEPARTMENTS OF
UNIVERSITIES AND

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INFO USMISSION USUN
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RELATED RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS AND NOT JUST BE FOCUSED
IN ONE "INTERNATIONAL" DEPARTMENT; (3) PROFESSIONAL
CAREER CONTINUITY IS INSURED FOR THE TECHNICAL PROFES-
SIONALS WHO ENGAGE IN DEVELOPMENT WORK.

7. THE US DEL PRESENTATION OF SOME OF THE ASPECTS OF
TITLE XII OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT, SUPPORTED BY
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DISTRIBUTION OF PERTINENT DOCUMENTS, FITTED
WELL INTO THE MOOD AND PROVOKED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST.
WE GAVE DETAILS OF THE COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH
GRANTS AS A MEANS OF MOBILIZING A PART OF THE U.S.
SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY, OF ORGANIZING JOINT RESEARCH WITH
LDC INSTITUTIONS AND INDIVIDUALS, AND OF PROMOTING
RESEARCH ON ISSUES OF INTEREST BOTH TO THE UNITED STATES
AND THE LDCS. ON THIS LATTER POINT, WHILE MANY COUNTRIES
MENTIONED BENEFITS TO THEIR DOMESTIC RESEARCH FROM
ENGAGEMENT ON OVERSEAS PROBLEMS, THERE WAS NO REAL FOCUS
ON HOW TO DIRECT ATTENTION TO PROBLEMS OF BROAD INTEREST.
(IT WAS RECOGNIZED THAT AGRICULTURE PRESENTS DIFFERENT
REQUIREMENTS FROM OTHER FIELDS, BEING AMONG OTHER THINGS
HIGHLY LOCATION SPECIFIC IN APPLICATION, AND SHOULD NOT
BE TAKEN AS A MODEL FOR SYSTEMS TO APPLY SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY IN OTHER AREAS.

8. BECAUSE THE DISCUSSION DURING THIS SESSION SEEMED TO
BE TOO STRONGLY ORIENTED TOWARD THE AGRICULTURE AND
HEALTH SECTORS, THE U.S. DELEGATION INTERVENED IN AN
ATTEMPT TO REDIRECT THE DISCUSSION MORE CLOSELY TO THE
AGENDA AND SPECIFICALLY TO GENERATE AN EXCHANGE ON THE

SUBJECT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COLLABORATION IN THE FIELD OF INDUSTRIALIZATION AND THE RELATIONSHIP OF THIS SUBJECT PARTICULARLY TO THE MIDDLE INCOME AND MORE ADVANCED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

9. WHILE THE MEETING TENDED NATURALLY TO IDENTIFY SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AS A SPECIAL AND SEPARATE SUBJECT, THERE WERE SEVERAL TIMELY WARNINGS (AND GENERAL AGREEMENT) THAT TECHNOLOGY WAS ONLY VALUABLE TO DEVELOPMENT WHEN THE FAVORABLE CONDITIONS FOR APPLYING IT WERE PRESENT. REPEATEDLY THERE WAS INSISTENCE ON THE ROLE
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OF SOCIAL SCIENCE, ALTHOUGH THERE WAS NO CLEAR AGREEMENT ON JUST HOW IT WAS TO BE APPLIED. SEVERAL DELEGATIONS REPORTED THAT PREPARING FOR THE MEETING HAD GIVEN RISE TO EXCHANGES BETWEEN THEIR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COMMUNITIES AND THEIR AID ADMINISTRATORS OF A BENEFICIAL KIND NOT PREVIOUSLY REALIZED. SIMILARLY, OECD REPRESENTATIVES APPLAUDED A SIMILAR IMPACT ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN STAFF GROUPS WITHIN THE OECD ITSELF.

10. AN INTERESTING PAPER ON THE ROLE OF THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS SUGGESTED THAT BECAUSE OF THE OBVIOUS LINKAGE TO APPLICATION, IT MIGHT MAKE SENSE TO ASK THE WORLD BANK TO EXPAND ITS SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL CAPACITY. WE COMMENTED THAT THIS SEEMED AN IDEA WORTH PURSUING FURTHER.

11. THERE WAS AGREEMENT THAT MEETING THE S&T NEEDS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES MIGHT OFTEN REQUIRE COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, BECAUSE NONE OF THEM ALONE WAS LIKELY TO POSSESS ALL OF THE RELEVANT KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS FOR DEALING WITH A PARTICULAR PROBLEM. THE FRENCH DELEGATION INSISTED PARTICULARLY ON THIS POINT. PROFESSOR BUNTING POINTED TO THE DESIRABILITY OF MAKING SURE THAT EACH DONOR WORKING IN A COUNTRY CONTRIBUTES TO STRENGTHENING THE KNOWLEDGE SYSTEM, AND CALLED ON DONORS WITH PROJECTS HAVING SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ASPECTS IN A PARTICULAR COUNTRY TO TRY TO INTEGRATE THEIR WORK TO THAT END.

12. SEVERAL COUNTRIES POINTED TO ASPECTS OF THEIR OWN EXPERIENCE THAT MIGHT BE SPECIALLY RELEVANT TO THE NEEDS OF RAPIDLY INDUSTRIALIZING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. FOR EXAMPLE BOTH NEW ZEALAND AND IRELAND ARE SMALL COUNTRIES THAT HAVE GONE THROUGH RELATIVELY RECENT EFFORTS TO BUILD THEIR INDUSTRIAL SECTORS. WE SUGGESTED THAT SPECIAL

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

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INFO USMISSION USUN

ALL OECD CAPITALS

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STUDIES MIGHT BE CONDUCTED OF SELECTED EXPERIENCES OF
INDIVIDUAL OECD MEMBERS JUDGED PARTICULARLY RELEVANT TO
MIDDLE INCOME LDC'S. IF POSSIBLE, THOSE STUDIES SHOULD
INCLUDE AS TEAM MEMBERS, SPECIALISTS FROM THE LDC'S
THEMSELVES. IT IS APPARENT THAT MOST OF THE COUNTRIES
REPRESENTED THAT MAINTAIN LARGE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS ARE

MUCH MORE ACTIVE IN FIELDS OF INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY,
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MANAGEMENT AND OTHER AREAS RELATED TO INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT THATN THE UNITED STATES. THERE WAS NO CLEAR PATTERN FOR DEALING WITH MIDDLE INCOME COUNTRIES, ALTHOUGH THERE WAS A GENERAL RECOGNITION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SUBJECT. HTIS ALSO SEEMS A SUBJECT WHERE FURTHER OECD ATTENTION IS WARRANTED, SINCE THAT ORGANIZATION COMBINES EXPERIENCE IN THE INDUSTRIAL DIELDS WITH A SENSE OF THE INTERESTS OF OECD MEMBERS WHICH MIGHT BE AFFECTED BY THE VERY PROGRESS OUR ASSISTANCE PROMOTES.

13. IN CLOSING SESSION, CSTP CHAIRMAN MULLINS (CANADA) ASKED WHETHER IT WOULD BE USEFUL AFTER USCSTD TO HAVE A CONCERTATION OF EFFORTS AMONG OECD COUNTRIES. SABOURIN, DEVELOPMENT CENTRE PRESIDENT, NOTED THAT MANY OECD MEMBERS COULD MAKE SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTIONS IN ASSISTING THE PROCESS OF INDUSTRIALIZATION, AND SUGGESTED THAT THE DEVELOPMENT CENTRE COULD PLAY A ROLE IN THIS FIELD. DAC CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS POINTED OUT THAT AID PROGRAMS COMPRISE PUBLIC INTERVENTION ON BEHALF OF THE POOR THROUGH SYSTEMS THAT HAVE BEEN DETERMINED PRIMARILY BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR. A CONSENSUS EMERGED FAVORING FOLLOW-UP WITHIN OECD. THIS WOULD TAKE TWO FORMS: FIRST - GENERAL CONSULTATION ON THE SUBJECT OF THE WORKSHOP, PERHAPS INCLUDING A FUTURE WORKSHOP WITH A MORE SPECIFIC AGENDA. A DECISION ON THIS SHOULD BE MADE AT THE NEXT MEETING OF THE CSTP (IN COORDINATION WITH DAC AND THE DEVELOPMENT CENTRE) AFTER MEMBER COUNTRIES HAVE A CHANCE TO ASSESS THE RESULTS OF THE WORKSHOP. SECOND, CONTINUING CONSULTATION IN PREPARATION FOR THE UNCSTD, WHERE EXCHANGE INFORMATION WOULD CONTINUE TO BE USEFUL TO ALL PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES.

14. THE MANY DOCUMENTS PRODUCED FOR THE WORKSHIP ARE
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ILLIMINATING AND VALUABLE. WASHINGTON PARTICIPANTS
HAVE COPIES.
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